Agitation by Engineers of MTNL/BSNL

241. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether engineers of MTNL/BSNL had gone on a "Work to Rule" agitation recently resulting in crippling of telecom links to several States;

(b) if so, the details of their demands;

(c) whether Government started negotiation with the executive negotiating council of engineers of BSNL/ MTNL;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Some sections of Group "B" officers in BSNL and MTNL had gone on indefinite work to rule agitation from 23.10.2002. The services were reported to be functioning normal except in few circles (details in statement *See* below).

(b) The details of their demands are:

1. IDA pay scales for executives in BSNL and MTNL.
2. Payment of Pension by Government for MTNL optees.
3. Benefit of IDA pay scale for officers retiring in the intervening period.
4. Pay scale and pay fixation for DEs (Adhoc)
5. No lateral entry at the level of JTO and above.
6. Time bound promotion and service weightage.
7. Cadre review for the cadres of JTOs & SDEs.

(c) Yes, Sir. A number of discussions/meetings were held with the representative of the Executives Negotiating Council.

(d) The issues of concern to the employees of MTNL and BSNL i.e. IDA pay scales, fitment formula, promotional policy, payment of pension by Government for MTNL optees, etc. are being actively considered for approval by the Government. The agitation was called off w.e.f. 31.10.2002.

(e) Does not arise, in view of (d) above.

Statement

Details of telecom services affected on some days due to Trade Union actions by the Executives Negotiating council from 23.10.2002 to 31.10.2002

Gujarat Telecom Circle:

1. Following TAX routes were affected on 26.10.2002:

Am-Godra, Vadodara-New Delhi, Vadodara-Indore, Vadodara-Mehsana, Vadodara-Palanpur, Mehsana-Vadodara, Amreli-Bhuj, Am-Bangalore, Am-Bhopal, Am-Nasik, Rajkot-Agra, Rajkot-Cuttuck, Rajkot-Coimbatore, Rajkot-Patna, Rajkot-Hyderabad, Vadodara-Jodhpur, Vadodara-Lucknow, Vadodara-Am,

Vadodara-Agra, Mehsana-Nasik, Mehsana-Godra, Mehsana-Anand, Mehsana-Himmatnagar, Mehsana- Surat.

2. Leased Circuits including circuits to press:

(a) Circles to ISPs, Cellular Operators and leased lines were disturbed in the night.

(b) BSNL Cellular Mobile Services also disturbed Pune MSC not accessible.

3. Long distance transmission network

(a) New Delhi one PCM failure

(b) U.P. (West) Telecom Circle: 42 Nos of PCM, between NOIDA and Delhi faulty.

(c) Kerala Telecom Circle: Following TAX routes affected:

TVM-Bombay, GTPR, EKM-Bombay, EKM-Kolkata, EKM-Coimbatore, EKM-Chennai, EKM-Hyderabad, EKM-Baroda, EKM-Agra and Kollan-GDS.